ML BULLETIN

Publication of the Magic Lantern Society
of the United States and Canada

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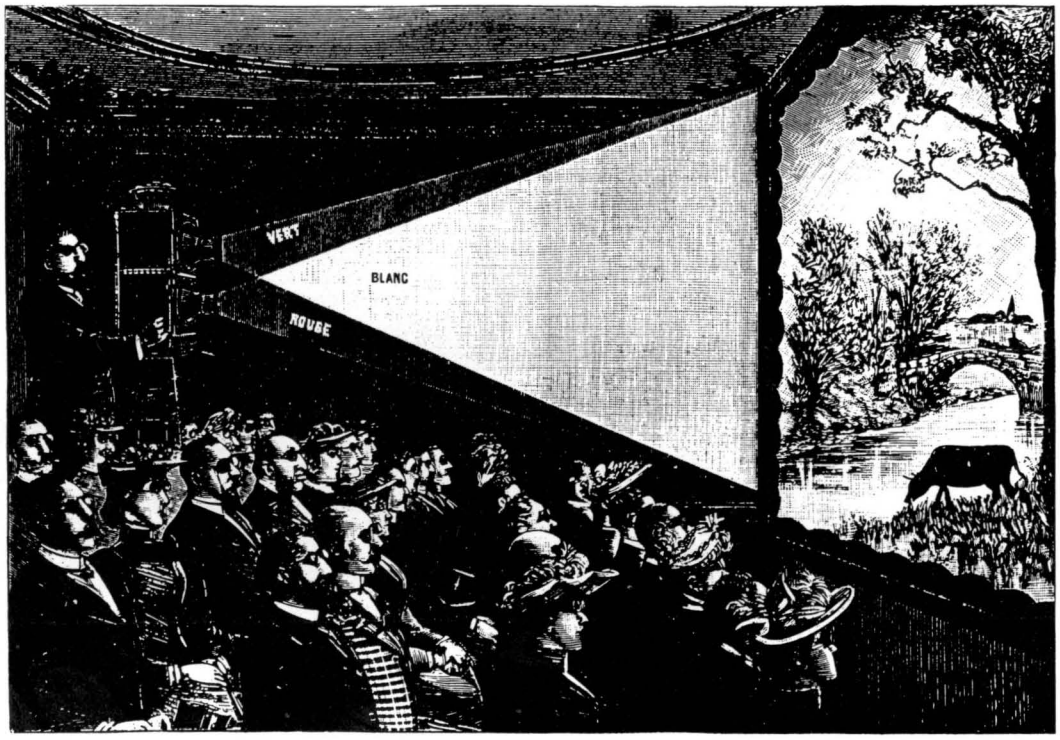

Two steps forward and one step back. No, we haven't abandoned the slick format that has graced the last several issues of the BULLETIN. We are responding to a number of suggestions, both editorial and economic, that the smaller "odd number" issues adopt a more informal look. In addition to complimenting the Society news, reports, ads and shorter articles that are the makings of the March and September ML BULLETINS, the savings we realise will enable us to continue to produce professionally finished magazines of 16+ pages in June and December.

Despite each of our admitted passions for magic lanterns, it is not unheard of for us to include other items in our collections. The editor collects daguerreotypes, for example. Another member relishes children's toys. Many evince an interest in a variety of pre-cinema devices. Some are general line photographica collectors. Often, there is an historical link, a natural flow that leads from one area to another. This issue's cover illustration depicts a fascinating connection between the history of the magic lantern and that of stereoscopy.

If the lantern is our passport to the "land of light and shadow," then the stereoscope is our ticket to the "land of depth." The laws of three-dimensional viewing were known

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to the ancient Greeks, but it was not until Sir Charles Wheatstone's invention of the mirror stereoscope in 1838 that a practical method for viewing two-dimensional images in 3-D was discovered. Wheatstone's paired stereoscopic drawings were based on the fact that each eye perceives the same scene in slightly different perspective. When recombined in a stereoscope--a device which allows each eye to see only one of the two pictures--the brain fuses the pair into a single three-dimensional image.

Shortly after Sir Charles' discovery, Daguerre introduced the photographic process that bears his name. Stereoscopy and photography were obvious allies and joined forces for a long-term run that lasted well into the 1920's. Stereographs were produced using every available photographic form--the daguerreotype, ambrotype, tintype, wet and dry plate print, and photolithograph. By far the most popular was the card stereograph: two slightly different photographs mounted on a thin, colored cardboard stock.

Many of the leading photoraphers of the 19th century produced card stereographs including Mathew Brady, Carleton Watkins, William Henry Jackson, and Eadweard Muybridge. During the heyday of the stereo craze--from about 1860 through the turn of the century--millions of card stereographs were produced. According to photographic historian William Culp Darrah, the London Stereoscopic Company sold over one million views in 1862 alone while the American firm of Edward Anthony sold several hundred thousand more during the same year. The stereoscope and wicker basket of cards were mainstays of the Victorian parlor.

Newer and better stereoscopes were designed, but regardless of the viewer employed, stereoscopy remained a solitary pleasure. Oliver Wendall Holmes collaborated with Joseph Bates to produce the Holmes-Bates stereoscope, the standard 19th and early 20th century hand-held stereo viewer. Variations abounded, but none allowed groups to share the stereo experience simutaneously. As it had in the past and would in the future, optical projection provided a means to transform current scientific principles into mass entertainment.

In 1858, Joseph d'Almeida invented a process for projecting three-dimensional images using a biunial lantern and colored filters. A contemporary print (above) illustrates a French audience enjoying such a show; the beams issuing from the lenses are clearly marked "vert" (green) and "rouge" (red). By wearing glasses with one red and one green lens, the viewer filtered each of the slides independently and experienced a three-dimensional image. Each of the nearly identical pictures had to have been taken from a slightly different viewpoint in order to achieve a stereoscopic effect.

D'Almeida's discovery depended upon anaglyphic images of opposite colors. Further refined by Louis Duhauron of Algiers, printed anaglyphs appeared regularly in Sunday newspaper supplements during the late 1800's. In his patent application, Duhauron pleaded the case for the superiority of printed anaglyphs, noting that they employed "neither darkness, screen, nor magic lantern."

The legacies of both inventors live on. D'Almeida's colored filters have been replaced by polarizing lenses, but the scientific principle which amazed French audiences over one hundred years ago is the same that produced "The Creature from the Black Lagoon" and "Jaws 3-D." Duhauron's printed anaglyphs surface most often now as children's novelties and reached a peak of popularity as comic book art back in the 1950's. Readers who wish to learn more about this delightful field can consult any number

of recent books on the subject. The editor recommends The World of Stereographs, by William Culp Darrah (Darrah, Gettysburgh, Pa., $22.50) and Amazing 3-D, by Hal Morgan and Dan Symmes (Little, Brown, Boston, $13.95). Illustrations in the latter book are blue-orange anaglyphs and the book comes complete with a pair of 3-D glasses!

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This issue's feature article by Bob Bishop is probably the final word on April's International Convention in London. As did several other members, Bob used the event as a jumping off place for a grande tour and rushed his report to us upon his return. Alas, it was received just as Issue #2 was put to bed and has had to wait all this time to be published. Joe Koch adds his two cents worth and brings us up-to-date on Society business. And wait until you see this month's centerfold!! In response to a member who suggested that we use up all the fold-out space available, we've included authentic readings along with our poster. The deadline for Issue #4 is December 1. We'll be featuring "Holiday Plums" again, so please sit down right now and send in a description (and black-and-white photo, if possible) of the best piece you've added to your collection during the past year. Articles of up to 1000 words on any phase of collecting, care, and/or history of lanterns, slides, pre-cinema devices, ephermera, or whatever are urgently solicited. The cupboard is just about bare. Address everything (including your free 25-word ad) to the editor. And in the words of Athanasius Kircher (loosely translated): "Let your little light shine."

LEARS MAGICAL LANTERNS

By Bob Bishop

Bedford Square in all its centuries of existence has probably never been host to such an imporobable series of performances as was presented in the Architectural Association Hall during the International Convention of the Magic Lantern Society of Great Britain. This climactic showing of magic lantern performances, lectures and displays was brought to a proper crescendo as the magical lanterns of Douglas and Anita Lear illuminated the convention on Sunday, April 10, 1983, thus bringing to a close the performing artist section of the scheduled programs.

The Lears brought with them their brass and mahogany triple Noakes and Norman lantern. In addition, there was a hand-cranked vintage moving picture projector, a series of bells, whistles, chimes, flutes, a harmonium and an American organ to lend atmosphere to the occasion.

On being introduced, Doug climbed upon a chair to display a hill wool sweater, knitted by Anita, upon which was emblazoned the words, "Lears Magical Lanterns." While he was making small talk with the audience, there came the sound of a great gong and upon his arm appeared a turbaned Djinn. The program began. (Ed. note: Readers who believe Mr. Bishop to be employing literary licence in his latest allusion should refer to the author's remarkable article, "The Magic of the Lantern?" in the ML BULLETIN, Volume 5, #2, pp. 2-4.) When the Djinn appeared, the houselights dimmed and the race to the Land of Light and Shadow was on!

The gong continued to sound and the harmonium joined in while on the screen the Chinese Procession appeared. A marching column of peasants, seemingly endless in length, ceaselessly paraded while the harmonium created chaos in the background.

LLOYD'S

ROUND TRIP

OVER LAND AND SEA

A Splendid Intellectual and Amusing Entertainment for Old and Young.
Something to think on with delight and talk about with profit.
Visions of Grandeur and Beauty to be remembered for a life-time

In the Evening, without leaving home, we take a Tour of Seven Thousand Miles, and visit numerous Interesting and Historic Scenes, Buildings and Art Treasures in

The Mother Land

In all which we have a common interest, and everybody is longing to see. No railway or steamboat fares; no hotel expenses; no harpy waiters and guides to fee; no peril to life or limb; no sea-sickness; in short, the pleasure of traveling and "sight-seeing," without the annoyance and expense. All this is accomplished with the help of **Photographs taken from Nature and Art**, enlarged by Powerful Lenses, and Illuminated by the

CALCIUM LIGHT,

The most intense Artificial Light available, estimated as equal to **Two Hundred Solar Lamps.** With this light we are able to Illustrate our Lectures with a Series of

DISSOLVING VIEWS!

On a Field from **TWELVE TO THIRTY-FIVE FEET IN DIAMETER**, according to the size of the Hall.

We propose introducing our audience to many Scenes of Historic Interest, Famous Edifices and Celebrated Works of Art in

GREAT BRITAIN

Most of which we have personally visited, and, therefore, are the better able to describe.

The following is an outline of the Trip:

On Board the Train for New York

New York and New York Harbor. The Departure. The Voyage, A Ship in the Icebergs. Wrecked Steamer. Hailing a Ship. Land, Ho!

IRELAND

Landing at Queenstown. Blarney Castle. Killarney and Lakes. Kilkenny, Dublin, Belfast, Giant's Causeway, etc.

SCOTLAND

Crossing the North Channel and Landing at Glasgow, Home of Burns, Tam O' Shanter and the Witches; "Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon" Highland Mary, Balmoral, Edinburgh, Abbotsford, &c., &c.

ENGLAND AND WALES

Traveling Southward, visiting Towns, Castles, Cathedrals, Abbeys, and other places of interest on the way, and by a circuitious route reaching

LONDON, THE VAST,

WITH ITS FOUR MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, its towering Domes and Magnificent Palaces, Churches, Streets and Bridges.

Satiated with the Wonders of Antiquity, Art and Commerce in the Great Metropolis, and the teeming Country, and furnished with a rich fund of Historical and Æsthetic Associations, we proceed to

LIVERPOOL

The great Sea-Port of the West, where we embark for Home. On the Voyage, we encounter the Thrilling Incident of a

SHIP ON FIRE!

A Wreck and a Rescue. Then Home Again, and a

Few Slices of Fun for the Boys and Girls

Among the many vivid and life-like Scenes Illustrating our Lectures, there will appear a Railway Train in Motion, Vessels Sailing, Waves Rolling, Mill Machinery Revolving, Day Changing to Night, Buildings Lit Up, the Moon Rising, Summer Changing to Winter and the Snow Falling; in fact, all that Art can accomplish in imitating Nature. Not the least interesting are the many Beautiful Statues and Paintings by Celebrated Artists; the former seen through Delicate Tints, the latter Superbly Colored. Nor is the Entertainment lacking in an occasional presentation of the

FUNNY SIDE OF THINGS

But there is nothing tawdy, puerile or coa se; nothing cheap excepting the charge for Admission.

ADMISSION

Cards for the Two Lectures.....40 Cents
Children, under 15 years of age.....25 Cents
Single Lecture, Adults, 25 Cents | Children.....15 Cents

No Extra Charge for Reserved Seats, as all can see and hear equally well.

Doors open 7.30 o'clock. **Lecture begins at 8 o'clock.**

G. W. LLOYD.

C. T. MILLIGAN, 728 CHESTNUT ST., PHILAD'A

During this part of the program Anita is the prime projectionist while Doug produces the entrancing sound effects and music fitting to the various views upon the screen. The Ratcatcher appears and the furry little devils disappear into the sleeping giant's mouth as easily as you or I would swallow vitamin pills. (You must know that everyone at the Convention has one or more Ratcatcher slides. Still, from the audience response, one would think that it was the first time the slide had ever been projected!)

A Storm at Sea appears. There is a peaceful harbor scene; a ship lies alongside the pier. Daylight fades and darkness comes. A small boat dissolves in the mist. The moon appears, tracing a wake of light upon the shimmering harbor waters. A lighthouse materializes and several large ships roll and heave upon the ocean. (The organ music adds immeasurably to these nautical views and when I looked at Doug instead of the screen, it was plain that he was one with what was being projected.)

So gradually does all this occur, that I caught myself holding my breath. Anita, the lady projectionist, is truly magic! The sun arises, the fog gradually lifts. High waves begin to surge and roll. (Cymbals clash, but you know it is thunder!) Lightning flashes as the ship fights a losing battle with the storm.

Seagulls soar over the water. Angels appear, searching for lost souls. A band of spirits rises heavenward on the screen. Doug fills the hall with the sad strains of "Going Home, going home. I am going home." The storm eases. A fire flares on the sinking ship. A lifeboat appears as the burning vessel sinks beneath the waves.

A modern steamship (circa 1900) approaches, smoke streaming from its stack. The rescue takes place and all return to port. There is wild applause in the Architectural Hall!

Doug leaves the organ and joins Anita at the triple lantern. Taped music takes over. Now they must coordinate all their movement and slide changes to the rhythm of the tape. Anita is to the left and Doug to the right as the Four Seasons and other dissolves appear. The section ends: turning water wheels and a pond in which a swan swims, periodically dipping its head in the water.

Of course there is much, much more. A hand-cranked 1905 projector throws Melies' "Voyage to the Moon" on the screen followed by a dazzling display of astronomical slides. Strange and imaginary crafts of another era float through the ether. Then all dissolves into an enthralling series of Chromotropes. All too soon the Queen appears, emerging from the riotous swirl of colors, and the program is over. The hall is silent for a few seconds and then erupts with applause.

A wonderful program was put on by our English counterparts. It was a pleasure and an honor to be part of the proceedings. If all this reads a little murky, just remember that it is written from notes made in the dark on the night of the show. And that is good enough for

The Old Projectionist.

KOCH'S CORNER
By Joe Koch, Chairman, M.L.S.U.S.&C.

I received a tiny pencil sharpener in the shape of a magic lantern in the mail a few months ago. It was engraved with my name and that of the Society's and was mailed from Wisconsin. In comparing notes with several others, it appears as though Bob

Bishop, Leora Wells, and Larry Rakow have also received them. Whoever you are, we thank you!

This coming December will mark the end of 6 six years that I have served as your Chairman of the Magic Lantern Society. It has been a satisfying although busy tenure and we have accomplished much. I would, however, like to pass the job on to someone who has the time and enthusiasm to carry on the good work. Please think about it! Alice, also, would like to pass on her position, that of Secretary/Treasurer.

Back issues of the ML BULLETIN from Volume 1, #1 through the current issue are available for $1 each postpaid. Purchase a spare set for posterity. To date we have published seventeen issues.

Would all members please check their 4-line "areas of interest" write-up which is part of the membership list. If you want to redo it, now is the time. Send it to me immediately; a new and updated membership list will be out in the early winter.

While in London for the Convention, the British Society arranged for out-of-town members to lodge with those in the city. Alice and I were fortunate enough to stay with Mrs. Connie Keating in Abbey Wood. She is a gracious lady, very intelligent and a fine hostess. We chose to go that route because we wanted to see and live in a typical British home and we were not disappointed.

During our stay, I purchased a colored print for $30.00 U.S. It measures $9\frac{1}{2}$x$7\frac{1}{2}$". It is the same picture which appeared on the front cover of the March, 1983 ML BULLETIN. In color it is truly handsome.

At the Convention, I had the priviledge of making a few comments on behalf of the U.S. Society; upon completing my remarks I announced that it was Alice's 62nd birthday on April 9, 1983. Also, we picked up six new members before the Convention was over.

Overall, the three-day affair was everything I had hoped it to be. The sales tables offered most anything you wanted to buy. The exhibit was probably the largest collection of magic lantern artifacts ever assembled in one place. The banquet, the meetings, and the auction were all done superbly. The videotapes and remote viewing areas were all handled by Dennis Crompton--the all-around fix-it man, emergency expert, and on-the-spot printer. His wife baked the cookies and fruit cake shaped like a biunial. Chairman Ron Morris kept things running smoothly at all times. There is absolutely no doubt that the British do things first class!

Finally, in regard to the free ad that Larry mentioned in the last issue of the BULLETIN, there is really no reason for members to include their addresses or phone numbers as they arelisted in the membership directory. If you go over the 25-word limit by 4 or 5 words we will not charge you. Please try to keep as close to the limit as possible, however.

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NEW MEMBERS

Elaine Cheesman
51 Oxford Street
Hartford, CT 06105

Carl W. Toland
4090 Sharon Park Lane
P.O. Box 41527
Cincinnati, OH 45241

Ed. Note: Too much Society business to fit in the readings promised on page 3. Sorry! You'll have to wait until Issue #4.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Louis F. Lindauer
43 Meadowrue Lane
East Northport, NY 11731

Lee Bailey
972 Snyder Hill Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

Minnesota Historical Society
Audio Visual Library
690 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
Attn: Acq. Sec.

Barbara Cauthorn
P.O. Box 457
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

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ADDRESS CORRECTION (AND CONGRATULATIONS!)

Jilliana Ranicar-Breese (formerly Julliana Levin)
5 Hamston House
Kensington Court Place
London, W8 9B ENGLAND

Jilly got married recently; on behalf of the editor and members of the Society---
CONGRATULATIONS AND A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE TOGETHER!!

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BUY/SELL/TRADE

WANTED PLEASE! I would like slides advertising Aladdin or Mantle Lamp Company of America; either kerosene or electric lamps. Also Velex or Alacite glassware. Steve Lolley, P.O. Box 217, Meriden, KS 66512.

JILLIANA ALWAYS has interesting prints on magic lanterns and other optical toys. £1 for list. 5 Hamston House, Kensington Court Place, London, w8 9B ENGLAND. (Those needing to know the current value of the British pound should consult the financial pages of their local newspaper or call a bank.--Ed.)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC slides wanted. Please describe and price. Andy Krietzer, 5621 Pollack Ave., Evansville, IN 47715.

KEYSTONE 600 set for sale. 558 of the original 600 slides, all with descriptive cards, and in original shipping boxes. Excellent condition. $325 plus shipping. Tim King, 7832 Academy Trail N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87109.

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Please remember that free ads not used during the current membership year cannot be carried over. Issue #4 will be the last time this year that you can take advantage of the Society's munificent offer to run your Buy/Sell/Trade ad absolutely free of charge. We cannot guarantee space to ads received after December 1, so send yours in right away!